

**State of Michigan  
Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Commission of Agriculture**

**Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, Michigan  
(Held in conjunction with the  
Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting)**

**Meeting Minutes  
December 9-10, 1998**

**PRESENT:**

Douglas E. Darling, Chairperson, Commission of Agriculture  
Deanna Stamp, Vice Chairperson, Commission of Agriculture  
Jordan B. Tatter, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture  
Shirley A. Skogman, Commission of Agriculture  
James E. Maitland, Commission of Agriculture  
Dan Wyant, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

**OTHERS PRESENT:** *(all or part of the meeting)*

Ron Zellar, Assistant Attorney General  
Brad Deacon, Governor Engler's Office  
Michigan Department of Agriculture Staff  
Jack Laurie, President, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Ken Nye, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Dean Peterson, Farm Progress Companies, St. Johns, Michigan  
Rob Richardson, Richardson Farms, Inc., Vicksburg, Michigan

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

Chairman Darling called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., December 9, 1998. Secretary Tatter called the roll with Director Wyant and all Commissioners present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.  
SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SKOGMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 9-10, 1998, MEETING  
MINUTES AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**The next Commission of Agriculture meeting will be held on January 6-7, 1999, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Ottawa State Office Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dean Pridgeon Conference, Room, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, Michigan.**

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONERS' PER DIEM AND TRAVEL:**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER DARLING'S PER DIEM AND TRAVEL TO ATTEND THE MICHIGAN DAIRY FOODS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON IN EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN, ON DECEMBER 1, 1998. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR'S OUT OF STATE TRAVEL:**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER STAMP MOVED TO APPROVE THE DIRECTOR'S TRAVEL, DECEMBER 17-18, 1998, TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE:**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE TO THE MDA "CAT" GAS TEAM FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS DURING AN UNDERCOVER GASOLINE STATION STING OPERATION IN 1998, AND TO LORNA LYNN FOR HER LEADERSHIP ROLE IN FORMING THE MDA TOASTMASTERS CLUB. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Deana Stamp** reported that she attended a meeting with dairy industry representatives and Michigan State University to discuss the future of the dairy industry in the year 2000 and beyond. This task force committee has been in place for about 18 months and has been looking at what the dairy industry in Michigan can expect in the next century and how Michigan should be positioned to meet the needs of dairy farmers. The committee concluded that the industry has gone through some dramatic changes. When the committee first began 18 months ago, the focus was on whether or not there would even be a dairy industry in Michigan in the year 2000 and beyond. Since that time there has been a fairly large influx of dairy animals into the state and the future is already here for the dairy industry. She said that dairy herd size continues to grow.

Commissioner Stamp commended Director Wyant and MDA staff for their approach on EPA's plans to address the issue of confined animal feeding operations. She believes that it is important to be good stewards of the land 365 days of the year and not just on the day the inspector comes to issue a permit. The voluntary approach is the best approach, with good sound guidelines to follow.

Commissioner Stamp also attended the National Milk Producers Federation annual meeting that was held in conjunction with the United Dairy Industry Association's annual meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada. She said there was discussion about how and where milk is being produced. About 36 percent of the nation's milk is under the control of three cooperatives, which account for \$17.4 billion in milk sales, and three supermarket chains, which account for about one-third of all supermarket sales.

Director Wyant asked about the merger of Dairy Farmers of America and Independent Milk Producers Association. Commissioner Stamp responded that the board of directors voted to bring the merger proposal to its membership. She added that as she reported at last month's meeting, Dairy Farmers of America has come into Michigan and offered large volume premiums.

**Commissioner Jordan Tatter** reported that it has been great weather for fieldwork. It is all done or it was not worth doing. He said that the deer harvest in southwestern Michigan has gone well.

Commissioner Tatter said that the unseasonably mild weather has resulted in a lack of winter hardiness of trees, bushes and vines. These perennial horticultural crops are now predisposed to cold winter weather injury to a greater extent than at any other time in his memory.

He said that following last month's Commission meeting, he accompanied Chairman Darling to Pat Driscoll's recording studio for an interview on Michigan Farm Radio. He also reported that he attended a get-together of legislators, state employees, state department commissioners, and business community members in Iron Mountain preceding the opening of gun deer season. This is an annual event hosted by Upper Peninsula business interests. The topics of discussion were natural resource management, agriculture, and the deer herd.

He also attended a Southwestern Michigan Economic Club meeting where retired Senator Bill Bradley spoke. Commissioner Tatter believes Senator Bradley will announce his candidacy for President. He felt that the Senator made an excellent presentation, but was disappointed that he did not mention the importance of agriculture or food processing to our nation.

Commissioner Tatter said that at a bimonthly meeting of the Tri-County Workforce Development Board discussions were held about the increasing trend in plant closings and/or downsizing layoffs for the southwest corner of Michigan. He added that they were not agriculture or food manufacturing related. He said that since that meeting the Kellogg Company announced a major management level restructuring that will affect the Battle Creek area.

He reported on discussions held with Jack Laurie, President of the Michigan Farm Bureau, and with Terry Morrison, Executive Director of the Michigan Food Processors Association about the federal Food Quality Protection Act and Michigan's electric deregulation legislation. Commissioner Tatter distributed a copy of Mr. Morrison's letter sent to Michigan Senators outlining the reasons his Association opposes Senate Bills 1340 and 1342. Commissioner Tatter said that Michigan is, for the most part, a high cost electricity state as compared to neighboring Great Lakes states. This has a serious negative competitive effect on Michigan's value-adding food processors, as well as on basic producers at the farm level. Commissioner Tatter feels that it is important that we do electric deregulation right in Michigan.

**Commissioner Shirley Skogman** reported that since the close of the gun deer hunting season she has had an opportunity to talk with many hunters. She believes that, overall, hunters were not pleased with this year's hunt. However, Commissioner Skogman added that almost all of the 35 block permits they received were filled. She said that there continues to be a lot of discussion about bovine tuberculosis and hunters and butchers are carefully watching for lesions in the deer harvested.

A Dickinson County fair board member asked Commissioner Skogman about the closing of Ladbroke and the effect it would have on county fairs. She said that she also has been asked about why so many firms are leaving Michigan.

She said she had discussions with Ben Kudwa, Executive Director of the Michigan Potato Industry Commission, about an upcoming seminar that will be held in St. Augustine, Florida, on March 11-14, 1999. Mr. Kudwa reported to her that the feasibility study on the potato processing plant at K I Sawyer should be received by the Potato Industry Commission on or about December 18, 1998.

Commissioner Skogman said that there is no movement in the potato industry right now and McCain did not offer much to growers. She said that there will be a meeting held to discuss the possibility of having four or five of the larger Wisconsin potato growers construct their own storage facility. Mr. Kudwa informed her that the Potato Industry Commission has received funds for the monitoring of storage bins at Bishop Farms. Unfortunately, Bishop Farms is no longer in business and the Potato Commission would like to receive funding to construct its own storage bins in Montcalm County. The Potato Commission would like to see if potatoes can be held in storage into May or June.

Director Wyant responded to the question on the horse racing and the impact Ladbroke's closing will have on county fair horse racing programs. MDA has reviewed the situation and has taken steps to address this concern. He said that Ms. Barb Hensinger has been appointed as the director of the Michigan Fairs and Expositions Division. He also added that MDA is working on amendments to the Equine Development Fund that would provide for an additional \$1.8 million a year from uncashed winnings.

**Commissioner James Maitland** reported that the weather has been unseasonably pleasant, and for the fruit industry that is always a concern. He attended the annual meeting of the Watershed Initiative/Grand Traverse

Area of which MDA is a partner. He is hopeful that the department will continue that partnership. He invited the Commission to attend the January 27-28, 1999, meeting of the Grand Traverse Fruit Growers Council that will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Commissioner Maitland asked about the status of the Commission's discussion held during the summer about the ag labor shortage in Michigan.

Director Wyant responded that a Farm Labor Task Force has met to identify short-term recruitment training programs for farmers. It also was recognized that there is a need for better networking and coordination between state and federal departments, and the various states. The task force will give a full report to the Commission before the next growing season.

**Commissioner Douglas Darling** reported that all field work has been done with record yields. He also commented on the Dairy Farmers of America proposed merger and on the milk mustache ad campaign. It has been reported that the campaign has not generated additional revenue or milk sales and cost the consumer an additional two cents per gallon of milk. Commissioner Darling stated that this is incorrect information because the campaign was paid for by the milk producers' check off monies.

Commissioner Darling said that Pat Driscoll of the Michigan Farm Network Radio attended their county ag banquet and provided interesting facts about his trip to China. He also talked about zoning issues. The state of New Jersey has passed a ballot proposal in the amount of \$1.3 billion for purchase of development rights on farmland. Commissioner Darling said that this is an issue that is before us and MDA may want to decide what, if any, leadership or support role it wants to take.

Commissioner Stamp stated that there is a voluntary program funded by the milk processors and most of that money is earmarked for the milk mustache campaign. She said that it is possible that a portion of the campaign cost may have been passed on to the consumer, but would be a very, very small percentage, especially when you consider what consumers pay for Pepsi or other products.

#### **UPDATE ON VALUE-ADDED PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS: Robert Craig, Director of the Office of Agriculture Development**

Mr. Robert Craig, Director of the Office of Agriculture Development, responded to Commissioner Skogman's question and comments about the potential potato processing plant located at K I Sawyer. He said that MDA is anxious to see the feasibility study later this month. Michigan has strong markets in table stock and in potato chips.

Mr. Craig reported that Packerland Packing Company of Green Bay, Wisconsin, a major beef packer, has consolidated Ada Beef and Murco, and is continuing to operate and manage the Murco plant in Plainwell, Michigan. He said that everything is going very well and the sale of the facility to Packerland should be finalized soon. He said that future expansion is expected.

He also reported that Sara Lee's Bil-Mar plant is closing its turkey slaughtering facility, but is not closing down the entire plant. Although it will no longer slaughter, it will convert the plant into a more value-added processing plant. He said that of the 350 employees affected by the closing of the slaughter plant, all of those would be rehired for the value-added processing plant.

Mr. Craig said that the Michigan Turkey Producers Cooperative, comprised of 30 to 35 growers, producing about five million birds, are completely out of a market for those turkeys next month. In the interim, some will be shipped to Bil-Mar's operations in Iowa, and to southern Indiana. Hopefully, the Turkey Producers Cooperative will be in the turkey slaughter business once it is legally formed. MDA has served as the Cooperative's agent in filing for a rural business enterprise grant to USDA to conduct economic and engineering feasibility studies.

He said that the Michigan Farmers Union has announced that they would be building a cooperative, soybean processing plant, in the Gratiot/Montcalm Renaissance Zone. The Thumb Oilseed Producers Cooperative will have a groundbreaking this winter in Ubly of its new soybean processing plant.

Mr. Craig stated that earlier this year Director Wyant appointed a Working Committee for Value-Added

Cooperatives to evaluate the current legal structure that governs formation and business practices of cooperatives. The committee is comprised of representatives from Farm Bureau, Michigan Alliance of Cooperatives, USDA, etc. Mr. Craig referred to Dr. Larry Granger's memo noting that the purpose of the committee is to analyze existing laws and programs. The committee has made its recommendations as outlined in the memo. He added that the committee, co-chaired by MDA and Consumer and Industry Services, would be expanded to develop a legislative proposal to bring before the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF THE 1999 SAMPLE FEE SCHEDULE: Tom Whalen, Director, Laboratory Division**

Tom Whalen, director of the Laboratory Division, reviewed and recommended approval of the Michigan Department of Agriculture 1999 Sample Fee Schedule, effective January 1, 1999.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1999 SAMPLE FEE SCHEDULE, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1999, AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Dan Wyant**

Director Wyant reviewed the Michigan Department of Agriculture December 1998 Bill Status Report as prepared by Vicki Pontz-Teachout, Legislative Liaison. Ms. Teachout was unable to attend today's meeting due to legislative action in the House of Representatives on agriculture-related bills.

**APPROVAL OF THE FORMULA USED FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FY99 SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS GRANTS: Dr. Kurt Thelen, Director, Environmental Division**

Dr. Kurt Thelen, director of the Environmental Division, reviewed and recommended approval of the formula used to allocate general funding to the soil conservation districts. There is no change to the formula from 1998. Dr. Thelen explained that a six-member team of representatives from Michigan Agri-Business Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service-USDA, and field staff evaluate the grant allocations and make recommendations.

Dr. Thelen reported that the EPA National Program Office has notified MDA that Michigan would be receiving a grant for another Clean Sweep site in the Marquette area.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER STAMP MOVED TO APPROVE THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FY 1999 FORMULA TO ALLOCATE GENERAL FUNDING TO SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**UPDATE ON FFA ACTIVITIES: Nathan Clark, FFA President**

Mr. Nathan Clark, 1998-99 FFA President, distributed information about the Michigan Association of FFA. Mr. Clark expressed his appreciation to the Commission for its continued support of FFA. He also invited the Commission to attend the upcoming FFA Convention. Mr. Clark highlighted some of the activities of the Michigan FFA.

Director Wyant and Chairperson Darling expressed gratitude to and high regard for Nathan Clark and the members of the Michigan FFA.

Commissioner Stamp added that she is very proud of Nathan Clark's work and his leadership role in Sanilac County.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mr. Rob Richardson of Vicksburg, Michigan, Kalamazoo County**, distributed copies and read a prepared statement regarding his family's proposed addition of a 3,500 head contract swine nursery. He is concerned about the differing livestock ordinances between townships. Mr. Richardson also stated that the Michigan Farm Bureau's Right to Farm Policy Resolution was passed today at its annual meeting. The resolution expresses

support for amendments to the Right to Farm Act by eliminating Section 4 which references county and township zoning. Mr. Richardson encourages the Michigan Commission of Agriculture to support the effort.

**Mr. Ken Nye, Michigan Farm Bureau** distributed copies of a "Sound Science" Newsletter that addresses the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). He said that there is a tremendous amount of background and information available by many different sectors that address the FQPA issue. The Michigan Farm Bureau has proposed a Sound Science Network that will communicate with commodity groups and others about the importance of this issue. The newsletter provides current updates to help everyone keep informed on FQPA. The Michigan Farm Bureau is asking for the support of MDA on this project.

Commissioner Tatter emphasized the importance of Michigan's Congressional delegation to continually be informed on the severity of this issue. The members need to realize that this is not a resolved issue, even though some believe it has been.

Director Wyant agreed and said it is critical that we continue to educate a broad-based group of people. He expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Michigan Farm Bureau. He added that Michigan is fortunate to have Dr. Mark Whalon of Michigan State University providing the leadership at the national level.

## **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m. on December 9, 1998.

## **RECONVENE**

The meeting reconvened at 9:05 a.m. on December 10, 1998.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mr. Jack Laurie, President of the Michigan Farm Bureau**, welcomed the Commission to the Michigan Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting. He commented that there are many issues facing agriculture today and he appreciates the support of and presence by the Commission and MDA.

**Representative-elect Rick Johnson** introduced himself to the Commission and extended an open invitation to the department and the Commission to visit his office. He is looking forward to his new legislative responsibilities.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Dan Wyant**

**Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs):** The director appreciates the partnership and consistency between MDA and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He participated in a meeting with EPA in Chicago that focused on CAFOs and EPA's draft strategy. The six states that make up Region 5 have voiced their concern and opposition to the draft strategy and have offered alternatives. The National Governors' Association will be holding a two-day conference on this issue as well and the Governor has asked DEQ Director Russ Harding and Director Wyant to attend and present the Michigan Model as an alternative to the draft strategy.

Director Wyant said that the Commission should be aware that this issue may receive heightened visibility in the near future. There is a Land Use Institute located in Beulah, Michigan. Keith Schneider, a former editorial writer for the New York Times, lives in the northern Michigan area and is very active in this issue. A writer from Missouri has been solicited to write a story on Michigan's livestock operations. The article, most likely, will address the issues of corporate farms, lack of regulations and problems with the environment.

Commissioner Tatter said it is important that the writer presents a correct definition of a "corporate farm."

**Peterson Bison Farm:** Director Wyant visited the largest bison farm east of the Mississippi located in Cheboygan, Michigan. The owner is concerned about the bovine tuberculosis issue. He has 700 head on 3,000 acres.

**National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Food Safety Conference:** The FDA has embarked on an initiative, along with USDA and EPA, to enact President Clinton's food safety initiative. The direction has not been fully defined, but is heading toward one federal lead agency, department head or cabinet level position. The coordination of activities would follow between multiple federal agencies in cooperation with the states. Fred Daily, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, chairs the NASDA Food Safety Committee and Director Wyant is the vice-chair. FDA has asked NASDA to provide input into the policy development and a national food safety strategy

**Turtle Lake Hunt Club:** This 28,000-acre private hunt club located within the bovine tuberculosis area has moved forward to erect an eight-foot security fence to enclose its entire operation. The club has indicated that it is not interested in keeping the deer inside the enclosed fence, but is only interested in securing its private property. DNR feels that the club is entrapping deer and not allowing free movement. The department has offered alternatives to the club for lower fencing, drift fencing, etc.

**Michigan State Fair:** Director Wyant met with Michigan Department of Transportation Director Jim DeSana regarding improving the infrastructure at the Michigan State Fair.

**Dr. Glen Pfau:** There are opportunities to attend advanced speech training with Dr. Glen Pfau. Director Wyant will get the dates and information to the Commission.

**Horticulture Research Committee:** The Director met with members of the committee to talk about Project GREEN, CAFOs, budget needs and food safety. Another issue that was discussed was the problem with the **Asian Longhorned Beetle**, a very serious problem in New York and Illinois. These states have spent over \$11 million collectively to deal with this beetle. Once it bores itself into a tree there is no pesticide or eradication approach to eliminate the insect except for tree removal and burning.

**Farmland Preservation:** Director Wyant said that at the January Commission meeting a joint discussion would be held with MDA and DNR to present recommendations and background on the current purchase of development rights process. MDA has input into the process, but per the law the Commissions of Agriculture and Natural Resources must agree on the process.

### **Director's Written Report**

Commissioner Tatter asked about the groundwater investigations in Oceana County and whether it was agricultural related chemical. Director Wyant will report back.

Commissioner Tatter also asked about the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board's, PA 344, lawsuit and allegations of unfair practices by New Era Canning Company brought by Michigan Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA). Director Wyant stated that there is no change in status at this time and Mr. David Charney would provide an update at the Commission's January meeting.

Dan Wyant left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

### **UPDATE ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES: Chuck Shelley, Michigan Department of Agriculture**

Mr. Shelley was unable to attend today's meeting due to illness.

### **UPDATE ON BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS: Dr. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian and Director of the Animal Industry Division**

Dr. Michael Chaddock, State Veterinarian and director of the Animal Industry Division provided the following update on the current bovine tuberculosis situation in Michigan:

As of December 7, 1998, a total of 568 livestock premises in the five-county area, representing 21,448 head of animals, have been tested. There are approximately a total of 25,000 animals in the area. USDA has been very helpful in this effort. The goal continues to be April 1, 1999, for completion of testing in the five-county area. After the testing is completed in the five-county area, testing will begin in the buffer zone.

- The Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service (MASS) will be assisting in the buffer zone survey. MDA will

utilize information gathered by MASS to complete testing in the buffer zone.

- As previously reported, there is one confirmed cow in Alpena County.
- As previously reported, there is a suspect steer in Alcona County. This has come back from the lab as being compatible to bovine tuberculosis. The DNA test of the organism shows that it is within the tuberculosis complex. Final results should be available before Christmas.

The farmer who owns the suspect steer in Alcona County has a group of 29 steers. He asked for assistance from MDA to help him find a market for the animals, but MDA was unsuccessful. Therefore, MDA provided an indemnification as provided for under the Animal Industry Act. The animals have been brought to the MSU Diagnostic Laboratory for testing.

Of the 29 animals, one does have a lesion lymph node compatible to bovine tuberculosis. It has been sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Iowa and notification has been received that it is compatible.

The Alcona County herd, which is actually on four premises and totals 155 animals, is under quarantine.

- DNR surveillance has reported that as of December 3, 1998, the 1998 Hunter Harvest White-tailed Deer Survey reports 7,029 deer tested, 54 percent does, 46 percent bucks. Of the 7,029 deer tested there were 81 suspect samples. Of the 81 suspect, 73 are still undergoing testing. Eight of those samples have completed final laboratory testing indicated that they were positive for microbacterium bovis. The breakdown of the 1998 hunter harvest deer by county: Alcona, 1775; Alpena, 1759; Oscoda, 1131; Montmorency, 984; Presque Isle, 852. Total for the five county area: 6,501. Cheboygan, 78, Crawford, 85; Iosco, 84; Ogemaw, 72; Otsego, 60; Roscommon, 16 and unknown, 133. These are preliminary figures. Last year the figures for this area were 3,118, compared to 7,029 for the area in 1998.
- Dr. Chaddock has visited with USDA to discuss Michigan's split state status plan. USDA has been extremely helpful in providing feedback and recommendations for improvement in Michigan's plan. It is Dr. Chaddock's feeling that USDA very soon may change policy and protocol if something is Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) positive. He believes that USDA will be calling it positive for M. bovis and not wait the 8-12 weeks for the culture.
- USDA is committed to seeking the changes in the code of federal regulations to allow USDA to recognize a split state status. However, that will be part of changing or amending its entire tuberculosis program at the federal level.
- USDA indicated that the process is going through industry review. The U.S. Animal Health Association has approved for USDA to move forward. USDA encourages Michigan to be ready in order that once split state status is recognized there will be no delay.
- There are areas in Michigan's plan that need some modification. Those areas include an improved surveillance in the five-county area and buffer zone, statewide surveillance, and increased surveillance of slaughter facilities. USDA did comment that they were very pleased and complimentary about what Michigan is doing. It observed that Michigan seems to be going beyond what is required. Other states have indicated to USDA that Michigan needs to take a closer look at its slaughter surveillance both in USDA and custom plants. It also recommended looking at minimizing the risk of transmission from northeast Michigan and suggested putting into effect biosecurity measures to look at the paper trail of any animal movement.
- It was agreed that Michigan and USDA would meet on a quarterly basis.
- The quarantine will be going into effect January 1, 1999. MDA has sent letters to area producers, has been working with the sale yards and veterinarians. Notices have been placed in state and local newspapers.
- A meeting was held with the Michigan State Police (MSP) and Motor Carrier Division to provide them with an update on the quarantine. MSP is willing to assist MDA with enforcement.
- There will be an educational training seminar on January 6-7, 1999, at the MSU University Club in East Lansing. MDA is currently in the process of putting together the agenda and inviting state and national



industry representatives. The Commission meeting will be held on those dates in Lansing in order that the Commission can participate.

Director Wyant re-entered the meeting.

Commissioner Tatter asked whether or not we should consider moving the boundaries to extend the buffer zone.

Dr. Chaddock said that is something that must be taken into consideration. It is possible USDA will require Michigan to move the boundaries at some time in the future.

Commissioner Maitland asked about DNR's success in bringing deer numbers down during this season's hunt.

Director Wyant responded that we will have to wait and see what the final numbers are to determine its success and where we go from here.

Commissioner Skogman asked about the rumor that farmers were not letting hunters on their land.

Commissioner Darling agreed that he has heard that from DNR staff.

Commissioner Tatter said he believes cooperation has improved.

Director Wyant said that the Michigan Farm Bureau put together a Hunter Access Program and offered it to sportsmen. Initially when it was offered only five signed up for the program. The Michigan United Conservation Clubs reacted to it and sent MFB a letter expressing concern. MFB went out county by county, farm by farm, and talked with the farmers. There is also concern by farmers that sportsmen and sportsmen's clubs are not doing enough to bring deer numbers down. There is varied cooperation in the five-county area.

Commissioner Tatter referred to proposed Michigan Farm Bureau Policy #12 permitting 24-hour deer shooting. Hunters would be allowed to use lights to shoot deer year-round if the deer are with livestock in fenced or confined areas.

Director Wyant stated that he is in support year-round disease control permits when deer are in proximity to livestock. He added that there may be some problem with the issue of shining deer. He suggested waiting for the final wording of the policy before the Commission makes a decision to support or amend.

Director Wyant said that MDA and the Commission would be asked about using the Animal Industry Act for a statewide feeding ban. At its January meeting the Commission should have this discussion and be prepared to move toward a March decision on this and other issues. He hopes that there will be joint presentations by MDA and DNR on the success rate, deer numbers, etc. There should also be a discussion on the scientific merits of a statewide feeding ban. A review of what other states are doing would be helpful.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**The following attachments are on file in the Commission of Agriculture office and are available upon request:**

Attachment A November 9-10, 1998, Commission of Agriculture Meeting Minutes

Attachment B Commission Awards of Excellence to Lorna Lynn and "CAT" Gas Team

Attachment C Letter written by Terry Morris, Executive Director, Michigan Food Processors Association to Michigan Senators

Attachment D Memorandum from Dr. Larry Granger to Director Dan Wyant regarding the working committee for

value-added cooperatives recommendations

Attachment E 1999 Sample Fee Schedule – Michigan Department of Agriculture, Laboratory

Attachment F December 1998 Bill Status Report – Michigan Department of Agriculture

Attachment G Formula used for Allocation of FY99 Soil Conservation Districts Grants

Attachment H Michigan Association of FFA Informational Packet

Attachment I Letter written by Rob Richardson of Vicksburg, Michigan, regarding his family's proposed addition of a 3,500 head contract swine nursery

Attachment J "Sound Science" Newsletter, Michigan Farm Bureau

Attachment K Director's Report – December 1998